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Legislative Alert: FY2012 Defense Appropriations

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AFL-CIO

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Legislative Alert: FY2012 Defense Appropriations

Abstract

[Excerpt] On behalf of the AFL-CIO, I urge you to reject amendments to the FY 2012 Defense Appropriations bill that would repeal existing protections for taxpayers and the federal civilian workforce when decisions are made whether to contract out federal work.

Keywords

AFL-CIO, Legislative Alert, FY2012 Defense Appropriations

Comments

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AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR AND CONGRESS OF INDUSTRIAL ORGANIZATIONS



815 SIXTEENTH STREET, N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20006

RICHARD L. TRUMKA
PRESIDENT

ELIZABETH H. SHULER
SECRETARY-TREASURER

ARLENE HOLT BAKER
EXECUTIVE VICE-PRESIDENT

LEGISLATIVE ALERT!

July 6, 2011 ^{(202) 637-5057}

Dear Representative:

On behalf of the AFL-CIO, I urge you to reject amendments to the FY 2012 Defense Appropriations bill that would repeal existing protections for taxpayers and the federal civilian workforce when decisions are made whether to contract out federal work.

Specifically, we urge you to oppose the Sessions Amendment that would repeal current statutory requirements that the Department of Defense (DoD) review its contracts and integrate the results into the budget process before it initiates new privatization reviews under the controversial A-76 contracting rules.

We also urge you to reject the Amash Amendment that would strike Section 8015, a provision that was enacted by a Republican Congress and signed into law by President George W. Bush. Section 8015 requires that DoD conduct a cost comparison before contracting out work performed by civilian employees.

Section 8015's cost comparison requirement consists of two parts, both of which have long been included in the A-76 process. The first requires DoD to submit a bid on behalf of the in-house workforce, known as a Most Efficient Organization (MEO) plan. The second part is the "conversion differential" which requires that there be an actual savings before work can be converted from civilian employee performance to contractor performance.

DoD has successfully begun to rebalance the federal and contractor workforces, and civilian workers have been tasked with making sure that inherently governmental and other critical functions, such as preparing budgets, overseeing contractors, and developing regulations, are conducted in-house. Moreover, relying more on federal civilian workers has saved money for taxpayers--\$900 million in FY10 alone, according to the Pentagon. We urge Congress to let this practice continue.

Sincerely,

William Samuel, Director
GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT